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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05892 251952Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 IO-13
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R 251249Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2933
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PFOR VN IN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: NEW DELHI 5228

1. ACCORDING TO NEA OFFICER R.S. MAKHIJA, SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WAS LIMITED DURING THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF VIETNAMESE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER MGUYEN DUY TRINH APRIL 12-16. MAKHIJA TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 22 THAT ATTENTION FOCUSED ON A REVIEW OF THE JUST-CONCLUDED NACC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AND SECONDARILY ON BILATERLA RELATIONS. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF RELATIONS WITH GREAT POWERS. MAKHIJA SAID THAT SINCE TRINH SPENT TWO DAYS OF HIS FOUR-DAY VISIT OUT OF DELHI, THERE HAD BEEN ONLY "SEVERAL HOURS OF DISCUSSION" IN ALL. REGARDING THE NACC, THE INDIANS AND VIETNAMESE EXCHANGED COMPLIMENTS REGARDING THEIR RESPECTIVE MODERATE BEHAVIOR WHICH, IN THEIR VIEW, HAD CONTIBUTED TO A SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE. THEY ALSO DICSUSSED THE ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE NACC SESSION.

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 05892 251952Z

2. REGARDING BILATERAL RELATIONS, MAKHIJA SAID THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE NOT AS EXTENSIVE AS THOSE HELD DURING THE FEBRUARY VISIT OF DEPUTY PM PHAN HIEN AND CONTRIBUTED NOTHING NEW TO INDO-VIETNAMESE RELATIONS. ASKED ABOUT THE VISIT OF THE ECONOMIC DELEGATION FROM VIETNAM, MAKHIJA CONFIRMED THAT THE DELAGATION WAS NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN JULY. THE VIETNAMESE, HOWEVER, HAVE NOT YET PROVIDED THE

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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

GOI WITH THE COMPOSTIONS OF THE DELEGATION NOR THE AGENDA
FOR THE VISIT. MAKHIJA STRESSED THAT IN DISCUSSING
ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM, THE INDIAN SIDE HAD EMPHASIZED
THE CONSTRAINTS UPON INDIA AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY ITSELF
BUT HAD ALSO EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO SHARE INDIAN TECHNICAL
EXPERTISE. THE VIETNAMESE WERE INTERESTED IN THIS, HE SAID,
BECAUSE INDIA AND VIETNAM WERE TROPICAL COUNTRIES WITH
COMPARABLE DEVELOPMENTAL PROBLEMS.

3. MAKHIJA NOTED THAT THE VISIT HAD BEEN ARRANGED DURING THE
PREVIOUS INDIAN REGIME AND WAS NOT SIGNIFICANT AS AN INDI-
CATION OF ANY PARTICULAR ATTITUDE BY THE DESAI ADMINISTRATION.
IT WAS NOT, HE SAID, "LIKE THE GROMYKO VISIT", A REFERENCE
TO THE SCHEDULED APRIL 25-27 VISIT OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN
MINISTER. DURING HIS MEETING WITH TRINH, PRIME
MINISTER MORARJI DESAI REITERATED THE INVITATION OF HIS
PREDECESSOR, MRS. GANDHI, TO THE VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER TO
VISIT INDIA.
THE VISIT IS LIKELY TO OCCUR BEFORE THE END
OF THE YEAR, ACCORDING TO MAKHIJA.

4. AT A BANQUET IN TRINH'S HONOR APRIL 12, FOREIGN
MINISTER VAJPAYEE REPORTEDLY NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT THE
TWO COUNTRIES HAD ESTABLISHED CLOSE COOPERATION WITH EACH
OTHER IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD SINCE THE UNIFICATION OF
VIETNAM. VAJPAYEE OFFERED TO SHARE INDIA'S EXPERIENCE
AND TRAINED MANPOWER IN THE VIETNAMESE EFFORT TOWARD
RECONSTRUCTION, AND SAID THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE VISIT
OF THE ECONOMIC DELEGATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE WOULD HELP
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IDENTIFY AREAS OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO
STATES. IN HIS REMARKS, TRINH EMPHASIZED THE EFFORTS OF
THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE TO REBUILD THE COUNTRY WHICH, HE SAID,
WAS SERIOUSLY DEVASTATED BY "SEVERAL DECADES OF WTROCIOUS
WAR". IN THE PAST TWO YEARS, HE SAID, VIETNAM HAD ACHIEVED
INITIAL SUCCESS IN STABILIZING THE SITUATION IN EVERY
FIELD AND WAS GRADUALLY SOLVING THE PROBLEMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT
AND "OTHER SOCIAL EVILS LEFT BEHIND BY NEO-COLONIALISM IN
SOUTH VIETNAM". IN THEIR BRIEF COMMENTS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING
DISCUSSIONS APRIL 15, BOTH FOREIGN MINISTERS STRESSED THE
SAME THEMES. VAJPAYEE SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN A "LARGE
MEASURE OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO DELEGATIONS" ON ISSUES
OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT AND THAT THE QUESTION OF INDIA'S PROVIDING
"TEHCNICAL ASSISTANCE" HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. TRINH SAID THAT
THE EMPHASIS HAD BEEN UPON ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL
RELATIONS, INCLUDING TECHNOLOGICAL COOPERATION AND CULTURAL
EXCHANGES, AND UPON STRNGTHENING THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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5. DURING HIS STAY, TRINH VISITED A LIVESTOCK FARM AND RESEARCH STATION AND THE CENTRAL FOOD TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE; INSTITUTIONS WHICH HELP TO DEMONSTRATE THE LEVEL OF INDIAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY. ACCORDING TO MAKHIJA, THE TOUR TO THE HINDUSTAN MACHINE TOOL FACTORY IN BANGALORE WAS ADDED BECAUSE OF TRINH'S REQUEST TO VISIT A HEAVY MACHINERY FACTORY.
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